



# BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

240 NORTH SPRING STREET • BLYTHE CALIFORNIA 92225 • 760. 922.6111

*Chief Robert Mathews*

January 12, 2016

Officer Servando Iniguez  
Blythe Police Department  
240 North Spring Street  
Blythe, CA 92225

RE: IA # 14-003

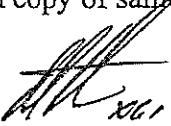
Officer Iniguez,

On June 24, 2014, you were notified that you were the subject of an Administration Investigation regarding your involvement while responding to a reported Armed Robbery, and a subsequent Officer Involved Shooting incident on June 23, 2014.

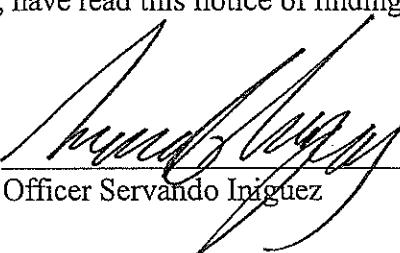
I have carefully reviewed the investigators report concerning these allegations. I agree with the investigators findings that you were justified in your actions related to this incident, and are Exonerated.

This Administrative Investigation is now closed.

By signing below, it shows that you, Officer Iniguez, have read this notice of findings and received a copy of same.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Mathews  
Interim Chief of Police

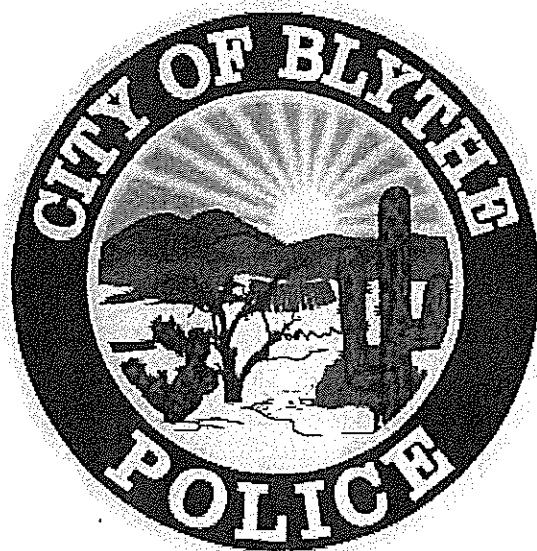
1-12-16  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer Servando Iniguez  
\_\_\_\_\_  
01/14/16  
Date

# Blythe Police Department

Administrative Investigation  
14-003

Officer Servando Iniguez



By: Jeffrey Wade  
Lieutenant

Robert Mathews  
Chief of Police

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Officer Servando Iniguez X169

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5. Return to Duty Letter



# BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

240 NORTH SPRING STREET • BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA 92225 • (760) 922-6111

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Officer Servando Iniguez  
240 North Spring St.  
Blythe, CA 92225

RE: Administrative Investigation #14-003

Officer Iniguez,

This letter is to inform you that effective June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 you are placed on Paid Administrative Leave until further notice.

This letter also serves as notification that you are the subject of an Administrative Investigation. Sgt. J. Coe has been assigned to conduct the investigation which focuses on your involvement in the armed robbery and subsequent Officer involved shooting incident which occurred during the afternoon of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

Sgt. Coe will notify you in writing of the date and time you will be interviewed. You have the right to be represented by a representative, who may be present at all times during the interview.

You are reminded that you are not to discuss this investigation with anyone other than the Chief, his designee or your representative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Jeff Wade".

Jeffrey Wade X46  
Lieutenant

I have read and received a copy of this directive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that appears to read "Servando Iniguez X169".

Date: 7/1/14  
Officer Servando Iniguez X169  
Police Officer

 **Administrative Investigation**  
**14-003**

**SUMMARY**

Page 1

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 I was assigned as the Watch Commander for Shift 2, (0600 hours-1800 hours). I was in full Blythe Police uniform and driving a white unmarked Blythe Police Tahoe. Also assigned to Shift 2 this date was Officer Keith Walnoha and Officer Sean Burt. Officer Servando Iniguez and Officer Justino Perez were assigned to Operation Stonegarden, a federally funded Department of Homeland Security special enforcement assignment.

At about 1445 hours this date I was assisting Ofc. Walnoha on a residential alarm call in the 600 block of Bell Lane when I heard Ofc. Burt being dispatched to an armed robbery that had just occurred. Dispatch advised that a suspect had just robbed the 7<sup>th</sup> Street 76 gas station at 761 E. Hobsonway armed with a rifle. The suspect was last seen running northbound from the store.

While responding I heard dispatch advise that the suspect was now heading westbound in the alleyway behind the "old Sears." I knew this alleyway was an east/west running alley which ran from Seventh Street to Fifth Street just north of the 7<sup>th</sup> Street 76 Station.

 I heard Ofc. Burt via radio state that he had arrived in the area. I then heard Ofc. Iniguez via radio say something to the effect of "watch your crossfire." As I drove north across Hobsonway on Seventh St. I heard a single loud gunshot which I believed to be from a patrol rifle. I pulled into the east entrance of the alleyway from Seventh St. and saw Ofc. Burt.

Ofc. Burt was out of his marked Blythe Police unit and had his patrol rifle up to his shoulder. Ofc. Burt was moving to a position of cover in an old loading dock area behind an abandoned Albertson's supermarket. I looked west down the alley and I saw Ofc. Iniguez and Ofc. Perez just east of Fifth Street. They appeared to be taking cover behind a trash dumpster.

I pulled up to Ofc. Burt and asked where the suspect was. Ofc. Burt was focused to the northwest and did not answer me. I looked in the northwest direction and saw a subject laying on the ground near the eight foot chain link fence which separates the alley from the Palo Verde School District's bus yard. The subject was about 100 yards away from Ofc. Burt's marked unit.

I then drove around Ofc. Burt westbound and parked my unit about 30 yards south of the subject laying on the ground. As I exited my Tahoe I saw the suspect was moving around. I also saw a rifle laying about 2-3 feet away from the suspect's left side. It appeared to me that the suspect, later identified as Darringer Gonzales, was trying to reach for the rifle with his right hand.

 I drew my handgun and began approaching Gonzales. As I approached I yelled "Blythe Police Department, don't do it," and "stop moving, don't touch that gun." When I was within about 15 feet of Gonzales he finally stopped moving and just relaxed, lying on his back.

**Administrative Investigation  
14-003**

Page 2

Ofc. Iniguez and Ofc. Perez had walked up by then and I directed them to pull Gonzales away from the rifle and handcuff him. I saw a puddle of blood forming under Gonzales' back. I advised dispatch that there was a suspect down and to dispatch an ambulance.

As Gonzales was rolled onto his stomach to be handcuffed I saw what appeared to be a single gunshot wound to his upper back between his shoulder blades and just right of the spine. This wound was where the blood was coming from. Ofc. Iniguez provided first aid to Gonzales by applying direct pressure to the wound.

I directed Ofc. Burt to put on gloves and secure the rifle found next to Gonzales in his vehicles trunk. I observed Ofc. Burt as he did this.

I then met with Officers Burt, Iniguez and Perez. I told them I was ordering them to provide me with basic information regarding the shooting. Ofc. Burt told me that he had fired one round from his .223 caliber patrol rifle. Ofc. Burt pointed to the area from which he fired. I noted that it was in the area of the old loading dock, where I had seen him as I pulled into the alley. Ofc. Burt told me he shot at Gonzales when he was in the area I had found him. Ofc. Burt stated he had not fired any rounds from his handgun.

Ofc. Perez told me that he had not fired any rounds.

Ofc. Iniguez told me that he fired three rounds from his .40 caliber handgun. Ofc. Iniguez pointed towards the dumpsters at the west end of the alley and stated he fired from that general area in the direction of the suspect Gonzales. Ofc. Iniguez told me that he saw Gonzales kneel down on one knee and bring the rifle he was carrying up to shoulder height and point it towards Ofc. Burt. Ofc. Iniguez then fired the three rounds in fear of Ofc. Burt's safety.

Gonzales was transported by Blythe Ambulance to Blythe Airport where he was flown to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs for treatment. I assigned Ofc. Walnoha to go with Gonzales on the flight in an attempt to obtain a statement en route, collect evidence, and photograph Gonzales.

When the scene was secure and Gonzales had been transported I requested Officers Iniguez, Perez and Burt be driven to the Police Department to standby. Prior to leaving the scene I admonished them to remain apart and not talk to each other or anyone other than their representative about what occurred. They then left the scene.

Chief Mathews informed me that he had made contact with Riverside County Sheriffs, (RSO) Central Homicide unit and requested they conduct the criminal investigation involving the Officer involved shooting. See RSO Report #A141740017 attached to Blythe Police investigation 2014-1618. Both investigations are within the Blythe Police Records division.

Administrative Investigation  
14-003

Page 3

Officers and Detectives from the Blythe Police Department proceeded with the criminal investigation portion of the armed robbery at Seventh Street 76. See Blythe Police report #2014-1618 held within Blythe Police Records division.

I left the scene and responded to the Police Department. I found Officers Perez, Iniguez and Burt in different offices. I made telephone calls to facilitate their personal needs and then responded back to the scene.

Members of the RSO Central Homicide unit arrived, as well as Deputy District Attorney Tony Orlando, District Attorney Senior Investigator Cervello, and RSO Forensic Technicians. I was introduced to RSO Homicide Sergeant Jeff Buompensiero, Inv. Dan Moody and Inv. Loureiro. I was told by Sgt. Buompensiero that Inv. Moody would be the lead investigator from the Homicide unit. Once all members were present I conducted a briefing and walk through of the scene.

At about 2027 hours I left the scene and responded to the Police Department.

At the police department I verbally explained to Officer Iniguez that effective immediately he was being placed on paid administrative leave, that he was the subject of an administrative investigation, and was not to discuss this case with anyone other than the Chief of Police or his representative.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 I completed the attached written notice. Officer Iniguez was served the notice in writing on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. The signed copy is attached to this investigation.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 I was informed that Officer Iniguez had been psychologically cleared by staff at The Counseling Team International to return to full duty. I completed the attached letter informing Officer Iniguez he was cleared for full duty. This was also served to Officer Iniguez on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

In mid to late April 2015 I received the attached letter from the Riverside County District Attorneys office. The District Attorney concluded that that there was no evidence of criminal liability on Officer Servando Iniguez. The letter was signed by Assistant District Attorney Sue Steding for District Attorney Mike Hestrin.

In May 2015 I received a copy of the Riverside County Sheriffs investigation, (#A141740017). It is a lengthy investigation which focuses solely on the criminal portion of this officer involved shooting. Over the next several weeks I reviewed the entire case file.

 **Administrative Investigation**  
**14-003**

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During the Sheriffs investigation Officer Iniguez voluntarily submitted to an oral interview, with his legal representative present, the night of the incident. See the Sheriffs supplemental prepared by Inv. Moody for details of the interview.

After reading the interview I found no inconsistencies with statements Officer Iniguez made to me at the scene or anything that would contradict physical evidence in this case. I additionally found no questions unanswered, making it unnecessary for me to re-interview Officer Iniguez, or anyone else involved for that matter.

In reviewing all reports in this investigation, together with my personal knowledge of events, I found no violations of the Blythe Police policy and procedures.

Summary completed.



 Jeffrey Wade X46  
Lieutenant  
Blythe Police Department

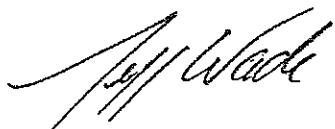
Administrative Investigation  
14-003

**FINDINGS**

I have reviewed all reports regarding this incident, specifically Blythe Police Investigation number 2014-1618 and Riverside County Sheriffs Investigation number A141740017. I have additionally reviewed and attached a letter from District Attorney Michael Hestrin clearing Officer Servando Iniguez of any criminal liability.

After careful review of all documents I find that Officer Iniguez was justified in firing his duty weapon at suspect Darringer Gonzales in defense of Officer Sean Burt.

Officer Iniguez is **EXONERATED**.



Jeffrey Wade X46  
Lieutenant



OFFICE OF  
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 6, 2015

Robert Mathews, Interim Police Chief  
240 N. Spring Street  
Blythe, CA 92225

Dear Chief Mathews:

Subject: Officer Servando Iniguez, I.D. #X169  
Officer Sean Burt, I.D. #X168  
Agency #A141740017

Please be advised that our office has completed its review of the incident involving the above-mentioned officers from your department. After careful review, we have concluded that there is no evidence of criminal liability on the officers' part.

If you have any questions; please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

*Michael A. Hestrin*  
MICHAEL A. HESTRIN  
District Attorney

CC: Inv. Dan Moody [RSO-CHU]

SFS:rq



# BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

240 NORTH SPRING STREET • BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA 92225 • (760) 922-6111

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Officer Servando Iniguez  
240 North Spring St.  
Blythe, CA 92225

RE: Return to Full Duty

Officer Iniguez,

This letter is to inform you that effective June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 you are returned to Full Duty.

You should consider this investigation as "on going" until such time as you are notified differently by the Chief of Police. You are reminded that you are not to discuss this investigation with anyone other than the Chief, his designee or your representative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Wade XAG".

Jeffrey Wade  
Lieutenant

I have read and received a copy of this directive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Servando Iniguez".  
XAG  
Date 7/1/14

Servando Iniguez  
Police Officer



# BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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240 NORTH SPRING STREET • BLYTHE CALIFORNIA 92225 • 760.922.6111

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*Chief Robert Mathews*

January 12, 2016

Officer Sean Burt  
Blythe Police Department  
240 North Spring Street  
Blythe, CA 92225

RE: IA # 14-004

Officer Burt,

On June 24, 2014, you were notified that you were the subject of an Administration Investigation regarding your involvement while responding to a reported Armed Robbery, and a subsequent Officer Involved Shooting incident on June 23, 2014.

I have carefully reviewed the investigators report concerning these allegations. I agree with the investigators findings that you were justified in your actions related to this incident, and are Exonerated.

This Administrative Investigation is now closed.

By signing below, it shows that you, Officer Burt, have read this notice of findings and received a copy of same.

A handwritten signature of Robert Mathews.

Robert Mathews  
Interim Chief of Police

1-12-16

Date

A handwritten signature of Officer Sean Burt.

Officer Sean Burt

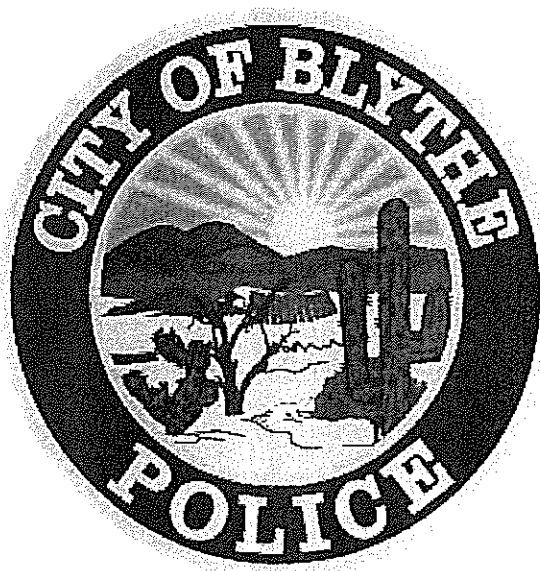
1-14-16

Date

# Blythe Police Department

## Administrative Investigation 14-004

Officer Sean Burt



By: Jeffrey Wade  
Lieutenant

Robert Mathews  
Chief of Police

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Officer Sean Burt X168

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5. Return to Duty Letter



# BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

240 NORTH SPRING STREET • BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA 92225 • (760) 922-6111

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Officer Sean Burt  
240 North Spring St.  
Blythe, CA 92225

RE: Administrative Investigation #14-004

Officer Burt,

This letter is to inform you that effective June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 you are placed on Paid Administrative Leave until further notice.

This letter also serves as notification that you are the subject of an Administrative Investigation. Sgt. J. Coe has been assigned to conduct the investigation which focuses on your involvement in the armed robbery and subsequent Officer involved shooting incident which occurred during the afternoon of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

Sgt. Coe will notify you in writing of the date and time you will be interviewed. You have the right to be represented by a representative, who may be present at all times during the interview.

You are reminded that you are not to discuss this investigation with anyone other than the Chief, his designee or your representative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey Wade".

Jeffrey Wade X46  
Lieutenant

I have read and received a copy of this directive.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.B.".

Date: 6-29-14

Officer Sean Burt X168  
Police Officer

**Administrative Investigation  
14-004**

**SUMMARY**

Page 1

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 I was assigned as the Watch Commander for Shift 2, (0600 hours-1800 hours). I was in full Blythe Police uniform and driving a white unmarked Blythe Police Tahoe. Also assigned to Shift 2 this date was Officer Keith Walnoha and Officer Sean Burt. Officer Servando Iniguez and Officer Justino Perez were assigned to Operation Stonegarden, a federally funded Department of Homeland Security special enforcement assignment.

At about 1445 hours this date I was assisting Ofc. Walnoha on a residential alarm call in the 600 block of Bell Lane when I heard Ofc. Burt being dispatched to an armed robbery that had just occurred. Dispatch advised that a suspect had just robbed the 7<sup>th</sup> Street 76 gas station at 761 E. Hobsonway armed with a rifle. The suspect was last seen running northbound from the store.

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I heard Ofc. Burt via radio state that he had arrived in the area. I then heard Ofc. Iniguez via radio say something to the effect of "watch your crossfire." As I drove north across Hobsonway on Seventh St. I heard a single loud gunshot which I believed to be from a patrol rifle. I pulled into the east entrance of the alleyway from Seventh St. and saw Ofc. Burt.

Ofc. Burt was out of his marked Blythe Police unit and had his patrol rifle up to his shoulder. Ofc. Burt was moving to a position of cover in an old loading dock area behind an abandoned Albertson's supermarket. I looked west down the alley and I saw Ofc. Iniguez and Ofc. Perez just east of Fifth Street. They appeared to be taking cover behind a trash dumpster.

I pulled up to Ofc. Burt and asked where the suspect was. Ofc. Burt was focused to the northwest and did not answer me. I looked in the northwest direction and saw a subject laying on the ground near the eight foot chain link fence which separates the alley from the Palo Verde School District's bus yard. The subject was about 100 yards away from Ofc. Burt's marked unit.

I then drove around Ofc. Burt westbound and parked my unit about 30 yards south of the subject laying on the ground. As I exited my Tahoe I saw the suspect was moving around. I also saw a rifle laying about 2-3 feet away from the suspect's left side. It appeared to me that the suspect, later identified as Darringer Gonzales, was trying to reach for the rifle with his right hand.

I drew my handgun and began approaching Gonzales. As I approached I yelled "Blythe Police Department, don't do it," and "stop moving, don't touch that gun." When I was within about 15 feet of Gonzales he finally stopped moving and just relaxed, lying on his back.

## Administrative Investigation 14-004

Page 2

Ofc. Iniguez and Ofc. Perez had walked up by then and I directed them to pull Gonzales away from the rifle and handcuff him. I saw a puddle of blood forming under Gonzales' back. I advised dispatch that there was a suspect down and to dispatch an ambulance.

As Gonzales was rolled onto his stomach to be handcuffed I saw what appeared to be a single gunshot wound to his upper back between his shoulder blades and just right of the spine. This wound was where the blood was coming from. Ofc. Iniguez provided first aid to Gonzales by applying direct pressure to the wound.

I directed Ofc. Burt to put on gloves and secure the rifle found next to Gonzales in his vehicles trunk. I observed Ofc. Burt as he did this.

I then met with Officers Burt, Iniguez and Perez. I told them I was ordering them to provide me with basic information regarding the shooting. Ofc. Burt told me that he had fired one round from his .223 caliber patrol rifle. Ofc. Burt pointed to the area from which he fired. I noted that it was in the area of the old loading dock, where I had seen him as I pulled into the alley. Ofc. Burt told me he shot at Gonzales when he was in the area I had found him. Ofc. Burt stated he had not fired any rounds from his handgun.

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Gonzales was transported by Blythe Ambulance to Blythe Airport where he was flown to Desert Hospital in Palm Springs for treatment. I assigned Ofc. Walnoha to go with Gonzales on the flight in an attempt to obtain a statement en route, collect evidence, and photograph Gonzales.

When the scene was secure and Gonzales had been transported I requested Officers Iniguez, Perez and Burt be driven to the Police Department to standby. Prior to leaving the scene I admonished them to remain apart and not talk to each other or anyone other than their representative about what occurred. They then left the scene.

Chief Mathews informed me that he had made contact with Riverside County Sheriffs, (RSO) Central Homicide unit and requested they conduct the criminal investigation involving the Officer involved shooting. See RSO Report #A141740017 attached to Blythe Police investigation 2014-1618. Both investigations are within the Blythe Police Records division.

## Administrative Investigation 14-004

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Officers and Detectives from the Blythe Police Department proceeded with the criminal investigation portion of the armed robbery at Seventh Street 76. See Blythe Police report #2014-1618 held within Blythe Police Records division.

I left the scene and responded to the Police Department. I found Officers Perez, Iniguez and Burt in different offices. I made telephone calls to facilitate their personal needs and then responded back to the scene.

Members of the RSO Central Homicide unit arrived, as well as Deputy District Attorney Tony Orlando, District Attorney Senior Investigator Cervello, and RSO Forensic Technicians. I was introduced to RSO Homicide Sergeant Jeff Buompensiero, Inv. Dan Moody and Inv. Loureiro. I was told by Sgt. Buompensiero that Inv. Moody would be the lead investigator from the Homicide unit. Once all members were present I conducted a briefing and walk through of the scene.

At about 2027 hours I left the scene and responded to the Police Department.

At the police department I verbally explained to Officer Burt that effective immediately he was being placed on paid administrative leave, that he was the subject of an administrative investigation, and was not to discuss this case with anyone other than the Chief of Police or his representative.

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014 I completed the attached written notice. Officer Burt was served the notice in writing on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The signed copy is attached to this investigation.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 I was informed that Officer Burt had been psychologically cleared by staff at The Counseling Team International to return to full duty. I completed the attached letter informing Officer Burt he was cleared for full duty. This was also served to Officer Burt on June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

In mid to late April 2015 I received the attached letter from the Riverside County District Attorneys office. The District Attorney concluded that that there was no evidence of criminal liability on Officer Sean Burt. The letter was signed by Assistant District Attorney Sue Steding for District Attorney Mike Hestrin.

In May 2015 I received a copy of the Riverside County Sheriffs investigation, (#A141740017). It is a lengthy investigation which focuses solely on the criminal portion of this officer involved shooting. Over the next several weeks I reviewed the entire case file.

 **Administrative Investigation**  
**14-004**

Page 4

During the Sheriffs investigation Officer Burt voluntarily submitted to an oral interview, with his legal representative present, the night of the incident. See the Sheriffs supplemental prepared by Inv. Moody for details of the interview.

After reading the interview I found no inconsistencies with statements Officer Burt made to me at the scene or anything that would contradict physical evidence in this case. I additionally found no questions unanswered, making it unnecessary for me to re-interview Officer Burt, or anyone else involved for that matter.

In reviewing all reports in this investigation, together with my personal knowledge of events, I found no violations of the Blythe Police policy and procedures.

Summary completed.



 **Jeffrey Wade X46**  
**Lieutenant**  
**Blythe Police Department**

Administrative Investigation  
14-004

**FINDINGS**

I have reviewed all reports regarding this incident, specifically Blythe Police Investigation number 2014-1618 and Riverside County Sheriffs Investigation number A141740017. I have additionally reviewed and attached a letter from District Attorney Michael Hestrin clearing Officer Sean Burt of any criminal liability.

After careful review of all documents I find that Officer Burt was justified in firing his patrol rifle at suspect Darringer Gonzales in defense of himself and other officers at the scene.

Officer Burt is **EXONERATED**.



Jeffrey Wade X46  
Lieutenant



OFFICE OF  
THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

MICHAEL A. HESTRIN  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

April 6, 2015

Robert Mathews, Interim Police Chief  
240 N. Spring Street  
Blythe, CA 92225

Dear Chief Mathews:

Subject: Officer Servando Iniguez, I.D. #X169  
Officer Sean Burt, I.D. #X168  
Agency #A141740017

Please be advised that our office has completed its review of the incident involving the above-mentioned officers from your department. After careful review, we have concluded that there is no evidence of criminal liability on the officers' part.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

*Michael A. Hestrin*  
MICHAEL A. HESTRIN  
District Attorney

CC: Inv. Dan Moody [RSO-CHU]

SFS:rq



# BLYTHE POLICE DEPARTMENT

240 NORTH SPRING STREET • BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA 92225 • (760) 922-6111

June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Officer Sean Burt  
240 North Spring St.  
Blythe, CA 92225

RE: Return to Full Duty

Officer Burt,

This letter is to inform you that effective June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014 you are returned to Full Duty.

You should consider this investigation as "on going" until such time as you are notified differently by the Chief of Police. You are reminded that you are not to discuss this investigation with anyone other than the Chief, his designee or your representative.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Wade X46".

Jeffrey Wade  
Lieutenant

I have read and received a copy of this directive.

S. Burt  
Sean Burt  
Police Officer

Date 6-29-14